

REMARKS

Claims 2, 4-16, 18-20, 59, 65 and 66 were pending and rejected in the December 13, 2004 Office action. Claim 17 was objected to as being dependent from a rejected base claim, but was otherwise deemed to be allowable. Claims 1-66 have been canceled without prejudice in favor of new claims 67-75 as set forth herein. Accordingly, claims 67-75 will be pending upon entry of this amendment.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of allowable subject matter by the Examiner, *i.e.* claim 17, in the December 13, 2004 Office action at page 6. Claim 17 has now been rewritten in independent form as new claim 67, and the remaining rejected claims have all been canceled without prejudice. New claims 68-75 depend from claim 67, further limiting its scope, and are thus also allowable over the art cited by the Examiner. Accordingly, all remaining rejections have been rendered moot by these claim cancellations and amendments.

New claims 67-75 are fully supported by the specification as originally filed. No new matter has been added. New claim 67 is supported *inter alia* by original claims 1 and 17. New claims 68-74 are supported *inter alia* by original claims 9-15, respectively. New claim 75 is supported *inter alia* by original claim 10.

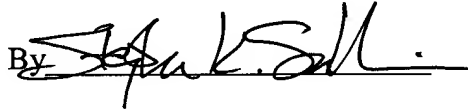
This amendment is not to be construed as an admission as to the correctness of any prior rejection or objection, and applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the canceled claims in one or more continuing applications. A continuation application is being filed concurrently herewith.

CONCLUSION

Favorable early action is respectfully requested. If any issue remains in connection herewith, the Examiner is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigned to discuss same.

Respectfully submitted,

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